

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets make changes to Figs. 2 and 7-10 and replace the original sheets with Figs. 2 and 7-10.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 9, 13, 17, 18, 24-31 and 34 are amended; and claims 35 and 36 are added. The features added to claims 1, 9, 13, 17, 18, 35 and 36 are fully supported by Applicants' Fig. 1, for example. The amendments to claims 24-31 and 34 are added to clarify the claims. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiners Dager and Keith at the personal interview held October 6, 2009, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action objects to the drawings for allegedly failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include certain reference signs mentioned in the description. In response, as discussed during the Personal Interview, and acknowledged by Examiners Dager and Keith, the enclosed amended Figs. 2 and 7-10 overcome the outstanding objection. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 18, 24-31, 33 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the Office Action alleges that there is inadequate structure in the specification for invoking 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph. In response, as discussed during the personal interview, and agreed to by Examiners Dager and Keith, claims 18, 24-29 and 31 are amended to remove the "means for" language. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 7, 8, 11-14, 16-18, 24, 25, 28-31, 33 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,154,688 to Dominke; and rejects claims 9, 10, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dominke in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0055811 to Obradovich. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, and independent claim 18 similarly recites, "said processing unit comprises an automatic cruising sub-unit generating the information processed so as to be shared among said driving system control unit and said brake system control unit based on the information for implementation of automatic cruising or pseudo-automatic cruising of said vehicle."

As discussed during the Personal Interview, and agreed to by Examiners Dager and Keith, Dominke simply fails to disclose an automatic cruising sub-unit generating the information processed so as to be shared among the driving system control unit and the brake system control unit, and thus Dominke fails to anticipate all of the limitations in amended independent claim 1.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

With regard to added claims 35 and 36, neither Dominke or Obradovich discloses or suggests wherein the automatic cruising sub-unit generates the information processed so as to be shared among said driving system control unit, said brake system control unit and said steering system control unit based on the information for implementation of said automatic cruising or said pseudo-automatic cruising of said vehicle, as recited in added claim 35, and similarly recited in added claim 36. Rather, Obradovich is directed to a detection subsystem 130 that provides an adaptive cruise control capability that measures the distance to a vehicle just ahead by controlling the throttle or brakes to maintain a safe distance. (See Obradovich's paragraph [0066] and Fig. 7.)

Therefore, as agreed to by Examiners Dager and Keith, Dominke and Obradovich fail to disclose or suggest a control system that receives information from the automatic cruise control system that shares information among the driving system control unit, brake system control unit and a steering system control unit, as recited in new claims 35 and 36.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JSP/mkg

Attachment:
Replacement Sheets (Figs. 2 and 7-10)

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